

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT ERIC
JOHNSON

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize Lieutenant Eric Johnson of the Charleston Police Department, who was recently named 2007 Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer of the Year by the American Police Hall of Fame.

Lt. Johnson is being honored for an act of bravery while on duty in June 2006. Johnson reacted with extreme courage after he confronted a man who was suspected of shooting a woman, who then shot Johnson in the abdomen and face. Johnson reacted quickly by returning fire. After being severely wounded, Lt. Johnson neutralized the suspect and despite his injuries, he began searching for his partner who had gone missing.

The Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer of the Year award is the most prestigious award given out by the American Police Hall of Fame. Lt. Johnson was chosen among hundreds of applicants from all over the United States. He is also the recipient of the Silver Star, an award for officers who place their lives in danger during the call of duty. Along with the acceptance of his award, Lt. Johnson's name will be on permanent display at the American Police Hall of Fame in Titusville, Florida.

Lt. Johnson truly went above and beyond the call of duty for his quick thinking and courage under fire; however, he responded to his heroism status with humility, a testament to his character. He is currently a shift commander and mentors less experienced officers.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Lieutenant Eric Johnson for acts of valor and bravery. It is an honor to serve brave men like Lieutenant Eric Johnson who put their lives at risk every day to protect others.

CONGRATULATING MR. ANDREW
GONZALEZ

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Mr. Andrew Gonzalez, of Littleton, Colorado, who will attend a People to People World Leadership Forum in 2008. His outstanding academic merits and communal involvement have laid a solid foundation of individual integrity and dedication: both characteristics of a qualified leader. I am honored to represent such a promising young man.

Created in 1956, the People to People Program is an educational travel program dedicated to fostering leadership potential in youth worldwide. People to People has helped more than 200,000 students and professionals develop their leadership skills based upon Dwight D. Eisenhower's belief that "people can make a difference where governments cannot." This unique interaction and exposure will enable Mr. Gonzalez to gain a greater un-

derstanding and insider's perspective of Washington, DC.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to acknowledge one of Colorado's own. Please join me in congratulating Mr. Gonzalez and wishing him the best in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 11 AS A
DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

SPEECH OF

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2007

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, on this sixth anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, we, as a nation, honor the memories of the nearly 3,000 Americans who were killed on that tragic day. However, honoring their memories requires more of us than simply remembering and celebrating the lives of the victims of those horrific acts of violence. To truly honor their memories we, as a nation, must recommit ourselves to ensuring that such acts never happen again.

The House of Representatives stepped up to meet this challenge by passing a sweeping security bill within the first 100 hours of the new Congress and ushering it into law on August 3, 2007. This 9/11 bill finally enacts the recommendations of the bipartisan 9/11 Commission 2½ years after they were made and 6 years after the terrorist attacks. This comprehensive legislation is long overdue but will make our Nation stronger, our cities and towns more secure, and our families safer.

Six years after the attacks of September 11, America's coastal cities are still dangerously vulnerable to a devastating attack. A nuclear weapon smuggled into the port of a large U.S. city could kill millions. However, only 5 percent of U.S.-bound containers are scanned before they leave overseas ports. The 9/11 bill makes millions of Americans safer by requiring that 100 percent of U.S.-bound seaborne containers are scanned before leaving foreign ports within 5 years.

Six years after the attacks on September 11, millions of American air travelers remain at risk because almost 3 million tons of air cargo that is transported each year on passenger airplanes remains unscreened. This is outrageous. The 9/11 bill ensures better protection for American families by mandating that 100 percent of cargo on all aircrafts undergo screening within 3 years.

Six years after the attacks on September 11, it is shameful that most first responders across the country, including those in Los Angeles, still do not have the critical communications equipment necessary to do their jobs effectively. The 9/11 bill finally makes first responders a priority, ensuring that they get the interoperable communications equipment they require by creating a stand-alone grant program at the Department of Homeland Security, authorized at \$400 million a year.

A comprehensive approach to ensuring homeland security, the 9/11 bill takes many critical steps that are necessary to keep America more secure from terrorist attacks. These include:

Authorizing over \$4 billion to improve rail and mass transit security over the next 4 years;

Ensuring that high-risk areas receive adequate homeland security funding;

Aggressively preventing terrorist travel; Adequately funding important programs that prevent terrorists from acquiring WMD; Better protecting our critical infrastructure and;

Strengthening intelligence and information sharing with local law enforcement.

The 9/11 bill is one of the most important pieces of legislation enacted by the new Congress. Long overdue, this bill better protects America from the threat of terrorism by finally enacting the recommendations made by the bipartisan 9/11 Commission a full 2½ years after they were issued. Now, Congress owes it to the American people to perform strong oversight over the Department of Homeland Security to make certain that it implements the bill's critical provisions. On this anniversary of the September 11 attacks, the American people have the commitment of the new Congress to take whatever steps necessary to further protect our country.

TRIBUTE TO THE LONG ISLAND
BLUE DEMONS

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Long Island Blue Demons for their 6-0 win in the 2007 Babe Ruth World Series tournament on August 24. The Blue Demons are comprised of players from the Merrick PAL, which is located in the 3rd Congressional District on Long Island.

The Blue Demons' win is of particular significance. This is the first time that a Long Island team has won the age 13-15 bracket. I want to applaud the Demons' athleticism and dedication to our national pastime.

These players worked hard all season. To advance to the World Series in Andalusia, Alabama, they had to win the State championship in Queens and the regional championships in Pennsylvania—which they did. They won 18 tournament games in a row, including a 6-0 victory in the championship game over a team from Henderson, Kentucky, on August 24.

This win has been more than just an athletic victory for the Blue Demons. These players from Long Island had the opportunity to stay with host families in the gracious Alabama town of Andalusia, where they warmed the hearts of their hosts with their positive attitudes and dedication to our great American pastime.

I am proud that the Blue Demons had such a rewarding experience and I again congratulate them on their World Series victory.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Mr. BOYD of Florida. Madam Speaker, had I been present on Monday, September 10, 2007, I would have voted "yea" on H. Res. 257.